

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12
EB-08 /140 W

-----066288 110533Z /13

R 110424Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9993
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USINT HAVANA
USLO RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00875

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MY
SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN VIEWS ON NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

1. FOLLOWING BRIEFING ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS, MISOFF
(GRAHAM) DISCUSSED NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) WITH
MALAYSIAN COUNSELOR (YEO) MARCH 8.

2. WHAT IS THE NAM? YEO BEGAN BY SAYING THAT THE NAM HAD
LOST MUCH OF ITS ORIGINAL RATIONALE. THE INCREASE IN
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GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND THE NECESSITIES OF TRADE AND
INVESTMENT HAD UNDERCUT THE ORIGINAL "ANTI-BLOC" PHILOS-
OPHY OF THE NAM. THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION WAS
NEARING ITS END. BASICALLY, YEO SAID, THE NAM EXISTS
TODAY BECAUSE IT HAS EXISTED SINCE THE '50S. ITS
PERMANENCE HAD BECOME A RATIONAL FOR ITS CONTINUING
EXISTENCE. AT LEAST UNTIL RECENTLY, THE NAM WAS A

COMFORTABLE "CLUB" FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN -- DISARMAMENT, SOUTHERN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST, ECONOMIC ISSUES.

3. THE NAM - A DRIFT TO THE LEFT? YEO SAID MALAYSIA WAS DISCONCERNED WITH THE NAM'S INCREASINGLY LEFTWARD DRIFT. THIS DRIFT, HE SAID, HAD BEGUN IN 1972 AT THE GEORGETOWN NAM CONFERENCE WHERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, NARROW NATIONAL VIEWS HAD BEGUN PREDOMINATING OVER COMMON PRINCIPLES. IN 1972, THE NAM PRINCIPLE OF OPERATING BY TRUE CONSENSUS HAD ALSO BEGUN TO UNRAVEL (YEO REMARKED THAT THE PRC HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO THE NAM AT GEORGETOWN EVEN THOUGH EIGHT ASIAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HIS, HAD OPPOSED IT). YEO SAW NO MEANS FOR STOPPING THIS LEFTWARD DRIFT. MODERATES WERE SHOUTED DOWN BY THE LIKES OF CUBA. MISOFF THEN QUESTIONED YEO CLOSELY ON WHY THE MODERATE MAJORITY IN THE NAM SEEMED TO BE SO BUFFALOED BY THE RADICAL MINORITY. YEO OFFERED THAT PERHAPS IT WAS A MATTER OF THE "CHARISMA" AND ENERGY OF DELEGATIONS LIKE THAT OF CUBA. ON ISSUES NOT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THEM, NONE OF THE MODERATES WANTED TO OPPOSE THE RADICALS AND THEREBY RISK DESTROYING NAM UNITY AND WITH IT THE "CLUB" THEY HAD CREATED. MISOFF COMMENTED THAT WHILE THESE REASONS WERE CERTAINLY UNDERSTANDABLE, THE MODERATES IN THE NAM WERE ALSO PAYING A PRICE FOR "GOING ALONG" (CERTAINLY IN TERMS OF US PERCEPTIONS OF THE NAM). YEO NODDED ASSENT BUT REMARKED

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THAT THE MODERATES HAD IN FACT WON A ROUND IN LATE DECEMBER BY SUCCESSFULLY BLOCKING A CUBAN INITIATIVE ON THE SAHARA. "WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN KABUL", HE SAID. MALAYSIA HAD NO ENTHUSIASM FOR THE UPCOMING CUBAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NAM BUT, TAKING THE LONG VIEW, WOULD TRUST THAT CUBAN ACTIVISM IN TIME WOULD PASS AND THE NAM INEVITABLY WOULD SWING BACK TOWARD A MORE EVEN-HANDED STANCE.

4. NAM - A DRIFT TO THE RIGHT? IN SOME DEVIL'S ADVOCACY, MISOFF ASKED YEO HOW STATES LIKE MALAYSIA RESPONDED TO THE CUBAN CHARGE THAT IT WAS MALAYSIA, ZAIRE, SAUDI ARABIA, ETC. THAT WERE IN FACT IMPUGNING THE NON-ALIGNED OF THE NAM BY THEIR ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE CAPITALIST SYSTEMS OF THE WEST. YEO REPLIED THAT IT WAS A FACT OF LIFE THAT MALAYSIA HAD NO WISH TO OFFEND THE UNITED STATES BUT THAT DID NOT MEAN SHE WAS THEREBY TARNISHING HER NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS. AT THE 32ND UNGA, FOR EXAMPLE, MALAYSIA HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ABSTAIN ON THE (PRO-US) AUSTRALIAN DRAFT ON GUAM FOR REASONS OF HER OWN NATIONAL PRINCIPLES.

5. NAM IMPACT AT THE UN. YEO SAID THE IMPACT OF THE NAM

AT THE UN WAS MINIMAL. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, THE THIRD
WORLD WAS WELL SATISFIED WITH GIVING THE LEAD TO THE
GROUP OF 77.

6. PUERTO RICO. MALAYSIA SHARED THE NAM'S POSITION THAT
PUERTO RICANS SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECIDE THEIR
OWN FUTURE, BUT MALAYSIA ALSO ACCEPTED THE US ARGUMENTS
THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WERE GENUINELY FREE TO
DECIDE IN WHATEVER WAY THEY WISHED.

7. GENERAL. YEO ENDED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT
THE US SHOULD NOT BECOME TOO CONCERNED ABOUT THE NAM'S
PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. GENERALLY, HE SAID,
NAM STATES THOUGHT THAT THE US WAS NOW DOING A GOOD JOB
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00875

DEPARTMENT PASS OTHER POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

IN UNDERSTANDING AND MOVING TOWARD THIRD WORLD CONCERNS.
BIT BY BIT THE US WAS EARNING THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE
OF THE NAM.

CORRECT LINE 4 OF PARAGRAPH 4 TO READ:
, ETC. THAT WERE IN FACT IMPUGNING THE "NON-ALIGNMENT"
OF THE YOUNG

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